

Early schools in Green Bay.

Reuben Gold Thwaites EARLY SCHOOLS IN GREEN BAY.

The following documents relating to early schools in Green Bay are selected from the collection of manuscripts in the possession of the Society, known as "Grignon, Lawe, and Porlier Papers." The schools referred to were distinct from the mission schools of the district, which were designed for the instruction of Indians. See "List of Inhabitants at Green Bay" in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, vol. x., pp. 136–140, for references to many of the persons mentioned below.

T. S. JOHNSON'S AGREEMENT.

[Translation from the French.]

Agreement

By Thomas S. Johnson, of the state of Onondago, of New York, to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, and the English language in the vicinity of Green Bay during the space of nine months from this date. It is necessary in order to carry out this agreement, to have as soon as possible a suitable house for the reception of the scholars, and the necessary wood furnished by the subscribers. During the said term of nine months the preceptor will be at all times ready to receive these scholars, that is to say in the time which the said subscribers have proposed. The Sunday excepted, the said preceptor according to ordinary rules, in order to teach the children will conform agreeably to the wishes of those by whom he will be employed. It is with this understanding that the undersigned agree to pay to Thomas S. Johnson, aforesaid, the sum of 6 dollars for each scholar per quarter, and to pay him each quarter.

Done at Green Bay the 10 of November , 1817.

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Jacques Porlier 2.

Alexander his X mark Guerguipet 1.

John Lawe 5.

Peter Powell 3.

pier Ullrich 2.

Louis Grignon 6.

Joseph Jourdin 2.

Bte. La Bord 2.

B. his X mark Larock 1.

6th January, 1818 — for 2 months.

[G., L. & P., iv., 55.]

SEMINARY SUBSCRIBERS.

The Subscribers of the Green Bay Seminary, To Thomas S. Johnson, Dr .

Subscribers names	No. of scholars	Months.	Days.	Tuition.	Repairs.	Total.	Rent.	\$ \$ \$ P.
Morrison	1	3	12	1-6	6	32	91	7 73 Paid. 1 58
Wm. Whistler	1	7	73	Paid.	1	58	R. Irwin, Junr.	1 7 73 Paid. 1 58
John Lawe	5	34	12	4	55	38	67	Paid. 7 90
Jacques Porlier	2	13	64	1	82	15	46	Paid. 3 16
Peter Powell	3	20	46	2	73	Paid.	4	74
Lewis Grignon	6	40	92	5	46	46	38	Paid. 9 48
John Bowyer	5	34	12	4	55	38	67	Paid. 7 90
Richard Prickett	1	6	82	91	7	73	Paid.	1 58
Joseph Jourdin	2	13	64	1	82	15	46	Paid. 3 16
Alexander Guripier	1	6	82	91	7	73	Paid.	1 58
T. Bt. La Bord	2	2	22	1-6	10	74	1 82	12 56
Paid.	0	16	James Dean	1	3	12	1-6	6 82
91	7	73	Paid.	1	58			

[G., L. & P., iv., 54.]

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A SUBSCRIPTION PAPER.

Green Bay, July 20 *th* , 1820.

We the subscribers, wishing to encourage the establishment of a good school for the education of our own & other children in this place, to be taught by a Gentleman & Lady, hereby signify our willingness, & give our pledge to contribute to the support of such a School, should proper Instructors for it be sent, the Sums affixed to our respective names, — also to provide for s d Instructors, free of expense to them, a house & School room, so long as they shall fulfil the duties of their office to the satisfaction of their employers.

M. Irwin , twenty dollars for one child, and quantity of vegetables.

M. Bowyer sixty Dollars for three children.

L. Grignon , Mr. one hundred dollars for five children and a proportionate quantity of vegetables.

[G., L. & P., unb.]

J. B. S. JACOBS TO J. LAWE AND L. GRIGNON.

To Mr. John Lawe & Mr. Louis Grignon ,

Gentlemen ,—as I have mentiond to you boath, that I intend to keep school being the onley means for a Liveleyhood. I shall concider it a great Obligation if you will favour me in obtaining Scholars, which I promise to do & act faithfully my duty as a school Master toward them &c.

Respectfully, Gentlemen your

J. B te S. Jacobs . Green Bay , 17 October, 1820

To Mr. J. Lawe and Mr. Louis Grignon .

[G., L. & P., vii., 44.]

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FOR THE ERECTION OF A HOUSE.

Green Bay , Oct. 1821.

At a meeting of the citizens of Green bay it was resolved:

1st.— That a subscription should be set on foot and measures taken for the erection of a suitable building for a school house:

2nd.—That when a tutor shall be obtained and instruction commence the subject of religion as it regards the difference of sects shall be excluded from the school as it is presumed the subscribers will be of various denominations of Christians.

3rd.—That the erection of the building & the superintendence of the school rules established be assigned to four persons chosen by a majority of the subscribers.

4th.—That every person having subscribed & paid five dollars shall be entitled to a vote touching any matter relative to the school or school-house to be established.

5th.—That Messrs. John Lawe, Jacques Porlier, George Johnston & Louis Grignon be requested to take the necessary steps to carry these resolutions into effect and that Mr. John Lawe be requested to receive such pecuniary subscriptions and to keep a record thereof as well as of such subscriptions as may be made in materials or labor.

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John Biddle .

Indorsed—:“Articles for the Regulation of erecting a school house at Green Bay.”

[G., L. & P., ix., 74]

JACOBS TO LAWE.

Green Bay 26 th November 1821.

Dear Lawe ,— Your note in answer to mind of the 25th inst pleased me mush, as it maid me cum to my right sencess; in one part of my leter to you I returnd you thanks for your favour towards me, and in another part that you abused me. I did not mean to say so, it is a mistake on my part. I ment to say that you reprimanded me several times in regard of the Blotter I kept last summer for you and my saying you was Jealous about my school I intended 457 to mention that you gave me no answer to my note to you where I mentioned I would be quite happy if you would send your Children to school and I should charge you onley one Dollar per Child instead of two—and about minding receaiveing person with spirits and Whiskey, I was half drunk and I maid Ceremonies to get quite so.

in regard of making out my account against you, please to place to my Credit, your's and Mr. Frankes Children 7 Months schooling \$84—as to my writing for you cupping [copying] invoices &c est les commission que je faiette—I did not inteand to ask you aney thing—but as I am a poor, reatch and Mr. Porlier has no Blanket of ½ Pt. and my Girl as not aney I would which [wish] you to Let me have one & ½ the Coloured Thread and one dressd deer Skin

To Forgive my errors Respectfully yours J. B te . S. Jacobs .

I shall probably pay you with grain.

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I have 24 Scholar but I suppose half will pay and the others will not pay verry well.

This Letter as been writin on the 26 Novemb at present 8 December 1821.

To Mr. John Laue .

Indorsed—:—"Letter from J. Jacobs, Green Bay 26th Nov., 1821."

[G., L. & P., ix., 88.]

GEORGE HUNT TO LAWE.

Mr. John Law ,

Dear Sir .—The revd. Isaac McCoy Baptist Missionary at this place is a particular friend of mine and a friend to Man.

He proposes opening a school at Green Bay. Any countenance that you may please to give his laudable scheme will be a favour on a man who possesses the confidence of a numerous society of citizens of the first respectability & will be thankfully acknowledged,

by Sir your Obt. Sevt. George Hunt .

Indorsed—:—"Recd. in June, 1822. No date, no place,"

[G., L. & P., xii., 83.]

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JACOBS TO LAWE.

Manomenie River , 20 *th* January, 1823.

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Dear Lawe ,—Mr. J. Houlle did his message and threats you told him to tell me—first I should have no traide with indians. I told Mr. Houlle, to give you my compliments & you must take me for a [big] fool. I have Capt. Whistler Instructions before my eyes. Mr. J. Houlle told me if it could be proved I had dealinges with the Indians, you would give Orders to Chapue To get Indians to tie me up and bring me to the Bay this same thing word was sent me by Pierish Grignon and on the 23 rd of November at night an Indian named Wabenenie which Chapue employs to go on Douvin came drunk to me saying I must give him whisky I was an inglishman and told Mr. J. Houlle that your commission of a judge could not authorize you to threaten me in shush a manner, if Capt. Whistler thaught propper to send for me it was right, and I am gentleman anuf to go forward without getting Indians to massecrate me althoug I am a Bratish Subject I am quite surprise at you judge Lawe, that you should commission shuch persons, however I have kept a journal of every transactions of this plase, and a good deal is said but no prove can be got, my Girl told me that you said I will be blam'd if I dont inform of Mr. Farnsworth giveing Whiskey to Indians I cannot prove it and if I could I should not injure a Man that has prevented me from Starveing this winter and have clothed my poor Children that was Naked — but I am afraid if Mr. Farnsworth wish to prove about Chapue given or retaling Whiskey to Indians he can bring forward two witnesses—Chapue sent one of his men with Indian Wabenenie to Bay des Nox, and met with two of Mr. Farnsworth men, those men got whiskey from Chapue man Jierror and gave some to Indians for six Martins and got all Drunk to gether.

* * * * *

I am indeed retry sorrey Dear Lawe that you belieave I should be juiltety of defroding my word of Honour to Mr. Stuard [Stuart] — in my defense towards mysealf I ask no Friends, but justice and the strickest of the Laws, onley 459 sorrey to find your Friends are your Enemies you think so—and your Enemies are your good Friends but still I wish you health and Prosperity your ever poor reatshed [wretched]

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B. Se. Jacobs .

N.B.

my best respect to your Family. Chapue is a good Man and does his Duty—

* * * * *

Judge Lawe, after shush threats and orders you sent to Chapue and as I have been threaten on the 23 November by Indian Wabenenie, all together and words sent to me by Parish Grignon, my life is in Dainger with the Indians, as I know you have influense with those Indians, however I keep sober & on my gaird, it will cost a good deal to put my life or my Familey safe & me or my Family you know I must get in debt to Mr. Farnsworth has I have no goods to put a stop otherwise, & my intention was to write to Capt. Whistler but my oppinion is you, are ordered by some person to act so whish are not your Friends, but your enimies, remember poor Mr. Franks Letter to you, I shall go myself to the Bay this winter but before I do go I would wish you to write me a few Lines.

and believe me for ever the same, toward you B. Se Jacobs .

The little Folle avoien came heare and said to my Girl he had a Pacton of Furs at the Canton wanted to get Sold for it. she told him to go and pay you—that he owed you. Mr. Farnsworth after now will cure hamsealf and stay here, had been incourage to keep a school at the Bay I should be there yet but one Gallon Pease 15 lbs. Pork per Month was not anueff to supp me.

I got drunk to drop the school as I could not make a Livelywood on one Gallon Pease 15 lbs. Pork per Month, and could not get Wood from Mr. Gorbut for the sake of your Family & Mr. L. Grignon Family do not treat their schoolmaster this year the same in case he drops school as I did.

[G., L. & P., xiii., 12.]

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AGREEMENT WITH AMOS HOLTON.

We hereby severally agree to pay Amos Holton or order for each scholar we hereto respectively subscribe or send to his school according to the preceding proposal, four dollars per quarter.

Names of Subscribers. No. Subscribed. Subscribed. John Lawe Six \$24 Louis Grignon Five 20 settled by note. J. E. Porlier three 12 Geo. Johnston three 12 Wm. Whistler three 12 B. Watson Two 8 Henry Clark One 4 P. Clark One 4 J. B. W. Brown One 4 Joseph Glass Two for one month 2.67

Subscription for School 4th March 1823.

I agree to teach an English school at Green Bay for one quarter to commence on the 10th day of March instant, on the following terms—namely: The subscribers and those sending to the school to furnish a room and fires for the accommodation thereof, & pay me for each scholar subscribed for, or send four dollars per quarter. The quarter to consist of twelve weeks at the rate of five days for each week & seven hours for each day.

Amos Holton .

Green Bay 4th March, 1823.

G., L. & P., unb.]

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EXPENSES OF SCHOOL, 1823.

Contingent expenses of the school at Green Bay , 1823.

Subscribers and persons sending to the school.

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John Law per sundries in bill No. 1. Dr \$40.13

Peter Grignon per sundries in bill No. 2. Dr 16.65

To Louis Grignon for use of store \$15, and one load of wood \$1 Dr. 16.00

To George Johnston for three cords of wood \$6. and eighty three of Boards 1.60 Dr. 7.60

To James Porlier for three & half cords of wood Dr 7.00

To Lewis Rouse for sixteen sash lights Dr 2.00

To I. B. Jenaw for work done to school room & Benches as per sundries in Bill No. 3. Dr 40.00

To Job Thompson for making & repairing benches. 4.50

\$133.88

One hundred and thirty three Dollars and eighty eight cents is the aggregate amount of the Bills presented to me; and I know personally that many of the articles were furnished and much of the work done, which form the items of the above Bill.

Dividing it by the number of Scholars viz., thirty three

33 133.88 4.05 132 1.88

presents a result of four Dollars and five 132 cents per scholar.

Amos Holton .

Green Bay 13th Sept., 1823.

[G., L. & P., unb.]

D. CURTIS TO R. IRWIN, GRIGNON, AND L. ROUSE.

Green Bay , Augt. 12 th , 1824.

Messrs ,—The Books furnished my school at the commencement of the first quarter, with a few which have been delivered since that period, have been sufficient for its use until this time; I have now to state that about three dozen 462 Spelling Books, and six Murray's Grammar's will be necessary for the present quarter.

Several Schollars are now destitute of Books, and the sooner they are supplied with them, the better will it be for the School generally.

Your Obt. Humble Servt. D. Curtis .

Messrs. Robt. Irwin, Jnr., Louis Grignon & L. Rouse .

[G., L. & P., xvii., 6.]

CURTIS TO LAWE.

John Lawe, Esq., To D. Curtis, Dr .

Dolls. Cts.

To tuition of four schollars from Apl. 25th, 1824 till Sept. 26th, 1825, at \$1.33# each per mo
\$90.66#

To tuition of three schollars from Decer. 16th, 1824 till Sept. 26th, 1825, at \$1.33# each
per mo 36.00

To Cash 10.00

To 2 Axes 2.00

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To your assumption of my Acct. against Mr. Gravel 8.00

146.66#

I know nothing of an empty Keg with you have given me credit.

Errors excepted. ... D. Curtis .

The above acct. is made out, as you will observe only, for even months, or rather for even quarters, and the broken part of the last quarter in which I kept the school, and for which I might, agreeably to my proposals for keeping a School at G. Bay have charged for the whole time, and this I wish you would explain to those who say that I have charged for too much time in my accounts. I have no doubt but you recollect the terms of my proposals, and that they were not to keep a school by the month, but by the quarter, and that the first quarter ought to have commenced at the time the instrument was signed and I ready to commence my school which was early in March whereas I have 463 only charged from the 25th of Apl. and have not included the deficiency of the last quarter, although it was less than an half. On this subject, however, I hope there will be no difficulty between myself and the proprietors of my school, but should I be compelled to extremities (or to resort to them), the instrument containing the grounds upon which I commenced the school can at any time be produced.

I presume also that in drawing up your account against me, you must have forgotten the promise you made me, or that your clerk must have exceeded his instructions. You no doubt recollect that you promised me in your little office, when I first spoke to you on the subject of whiskey that I should have it at cost and carriage, which you said would not exceed (you that,) 75cts. and this I always expected you would charge. I hope you will make a deduction on that article.

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My pecuniary affairs are all placed in the hands of Mr. Baird my atty. to whom I refer you for any information on the subject.

Respectfully your obt. Humble Servt. D. Curtis .

John Lawe, Esq, Green Bay .

Indorsed:—" Letter and account from D. Curtis, dated Prairie du Chien."

[G., L. & P., unb.]

R. IRWIN TO LAWE.

26 Nov r . 1828.

Dear Sir ,—From enquiries I have made since our interview yesterday morning, I have become satisfied that it will be impossible to remove and furnish the school house this fall; mainly from the difficulty of procuring labour and materials; from every information I can collect the carpenters have more work engaged than they will be able to execute this season: and again another difficulty presents itself of no little magnatude, in the want of unanimity on the part of all our citizens; which in a business of this kind, it is desirable should prevail; many I believe would 464 prefer renting for the winter, than remove the school house from its present location; for the above reasons I have resolved as one of the committee to let the matter rest until Capt. Arndt returns from Kau-kaulen, which will probably be this evening, and then endeavour to rent his new building near Beaupin, I have particularly examined it and think with a little repair it will make a more comfortable school room than any we could build this I fall, even admitting that labour and materials were at our command; should you acquiese in the views above expressed, it will be necessary for you to send your team.

Yours with esteem, Robert Irwin, Jr .

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John Lawe, Esq .

Dear Sir ,—Mr. Irwin has wrote me this note herewith if it will meet with your approbation please let him know as one of the Committee.

Yours, J. Lawe .

L. Grignon, Esq., Present .

[Translation of Grignon's comment in French.]

Not thinking about the project in that way, I resign, and decline to act as member of this committee.

[G., L. & P., xxii., 74.]

SCHOOL AT NAVARINO.

Navarino School .

Mr. Alexander Grignon would respectfully make known to the inhabitants of Green Bay, that he proposes to open a School at the New School House in Navarino for the instruction of Children in the various branches of English Studies usually taught at Common Schools.

Believing himself qualified to perform the duties of a teacher, and hoping to merit the favor of the Good Citizens of this place by an assiduous attention to be bestowed upon the Pupils placed under his charge: He solicits the subscriptions of all parents and guardians who are disposed to confer the benefits of a good education upon their 465 children and wards, & who are desirous of promoting their welfare and advancement in this “age of improvement.”

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The terms upon which pupils may be admitted into the School of Mr Grignon will be Three Dollars per Quarter for tuition—the first term to commence as soon as the number of twenty regular scholars are assured to him by the subscription List hereunto annexed.

Green Bay July 11th 1832.

We the undersigned, inhabitants of Green Bay, do hereby agree to furnish Mr. A. Grignon the number of regular scholars placed opposite to our respective names, and to pay to him the sum of Three Dollars per Quarter for each and every number so subscribed—at the expiration of each Term (the period of twelve weeks being considered a Term) in consideration that said Alexander Grignon will faithfully and impartially instruct them in the studies which they may be required to pursue under his direction.

Names of Subscribers. Residence. No. of Pupils. John P. Arndt Point Pleasant Three
Schollers. Eben Childs Green Bay One “ L. Rouse Green Bay One “ Daniel Whitney Green
Bay Two “ L. Clark One “ J. D. Doty Navarino One “ Samuel Ryan Fort Howard Two “ N.
Irving Green Bay One “ J. Kendall Fort Howard One “ John Hogarty Green Bay One “ W.
Farnsworth Green Bay One “

[G., L & P., xxix., 72.] 30